



THIS WEEK IN IRAQ

The Official Newsletter of the Multi-National Force - Iraq

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Watchful eye outside the wire



Airman 1st Class Matt Sleeper, deployed to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, as a member of the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Close Precision Engagement Team, locks in on a far-away target. Photo by Staff Sgt. Angelique Perez, USAF.

KIRKUK AIR BASE — When service members here have to go “outside the wire,” they sometimes have an extra set of eyes watching over them.

Concealed and usually from a long distance away, the members of the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron’s Close Precision Engagement Team (CPET), also known as the Tiger Team, observes, provides intelligence, and, if necessary, neutralizes threats.

The Tiger Teams consist of Air Force security forces counter-snipers whose expert marksmanship and ability to practically stay invisible allow them to sneak up to an enemy undetected.

“A large part of our job here is reconnaissance for the Army and sometimes agents with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI) detachment here,” said Staff Sgt. Curtis Huffman, CPET non-commissioned officer in charge.

“When they have a mission outside of the wire, we’ll set up near that location about an hour or more before they get out there. Concealed and out of sight, we are

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Seeds of commerce planted in former al-Qaida sanctuary

FOB KALSU — With al-Qaida’s ability to carry out violent attacks withering in the face of sustained Coalition offensive operations and Concerned Local Citizen activism, the Iraqi people are now looking to return to the livelihoods and ways of life they used to know.

Their desires are being met, in part, through the assistance of a U.S.-led initiative that distributes “micro-grants” of up to \$10,000 to promising Iraqi businesses that demonstrate growth potential.

On Nov. 14, an embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team (ePRT) attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 3rd

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Spartans lend hand to national museum Iraqis taking charge of their security



Press Conference: Iraqi Security Forces, Nov. 25.

Reconstruction Report: The latest from USACE.

Hot Item: MNF-I Photo Gallery: Select Images from Iraq



Cpl. Brian Hinojosa, Battery B, 1st Battalion 9th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., examines mortar rounds found in a farm house in Mahdiryia, Nov. 17. Photo by Sgt. Jason Stadel, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Tip leads to half-ton weapons cache

FOB KALSU — U.S. troops uncovered and destroyed a weapons cache containing seven pressure plates Nov. 16 and 17 in the area of Mahdiryia. The plates are used to detonate a form of improvised explosive device (IED) that is specifically targeted against Coalition and Iraqi troops on foot patrol.

The cache find was the first indication of these “dismounted” IEDs being used in the area of Mahdiryia. They are already heavily used by al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) the communities of Hawr Rajab and Arab Jabour to the north.

Soldiers from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery (FA) Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Ga., were led to the weapons cache by a member of the Concerned Local Citizens group in the

vicinity of Patrol Base W-1.

The commander of Battery B, 1-9th FA Regt. said this is the first time he’s seen this type of IED, one specifically designed to target foot patrols.

“We haven’t had any sign of dismounted IEDs,” Capt. Dave Underwood, from Harrison, Ark., said. “But I knew I’d see them soon.”

The cache was hidden outside a small farm house. In addition to the pressure plates, there were a dozen 120 mm mortars, one 82 mm mortar, a 60 mm mortar system with firing tube and base plate, a bag of mortar fins, and a DSHKA high-caliber machine gun.

Getting the IED-making material out of an area known for insurgent activity made

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U.S. must look beyond current conflicts

WASHINGTON — The United States military must look beyond the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and press forward with a view of shaping the strategic environment, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said at the Foreign Press Center here yesterday.

Navy Adm. Michael G. Mullen specifically chose the venue to highlight the need to reach out to people around the world. He said the United States recognizes how important it is to work with other nations and non-governmental agencies to reduce the uncertainty of an uncertain world.

Mullen said Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. is correct when he talks about the world entering an era of “persistent conflict.” He said he would add to that phrase that the world also is entering an era of “persistent engagement.”

“We need to recognize both, because while this long war on extremists is generational – it will take many, many years – we also need to recognize opportunities to engage other partners’ militaries and other agencies from around the world,” he said. “We also need to get at the root causes of terrorism and mitigate them.”

The American military is learning

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Operations Update